

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-7 (Canceled).

Claim 8 (New): A method for studying a surface by reflectometry, comprising:

projecting a radiation on the surface;

collecting a measurement spectrum of the radiation after reflection of the radiation on the surface and displaying the spectrum on a graphic medium;

selecting points of the spectrum, the points configured to be joined by lines approaching the spectrum; and

seeking relief features of the surface by comparisons of selected points of the measurement spectrum with homologous points of a test spectrum, the test spectrum coming from a simulated reflection of the radiation on a test surface resulting from modeling the relief as expressed by parameters, and comprising adjustments of the comparisons and of the test spectrum by adjustments of the parameters,

wherein the parameters are successively adjusted in an order determined by a sensitivity of the test spectrum to the parameters, most influential of the parameters on the spectrum being adjusted first and so forth.

Claim 9 (New): The method according to claim 8, wherein the relief is modeled by a stack of slices defined by a number of slices in the stack and heights and widths of sections of slices, the number as well as the heights and widths being determined from a total error and from a propagation constant of the radiation.

Claim 10 (New): The method according to claim 9, wherein the error for each slice is defined by the integral over a height of the slice, of the absolute value of the difference between the propagation constant of the relief and the average propagation constant of the slice.

Claim 11 (New): The method according to claim 10, wherein a sum of the errors of all the slices is equal to a maximum acceptable value.

Claim 12 (New): The method according to claim 8, wherein the most influential parameters comprise a height and width of the relief features, which are changed in the adjustments first.

Claim 13 (New): The method according to claim 12, wherein the parameters comprise a slope and a rounding of the relief features, which are changed in this order in the adjustments, and after the height and the width.

Claim 14 (New): The method according to claim 13, further comprising adjustments of the number of levels of the relief features used for obtaining the test spectrum.